

What is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a distributed inlet for collecting and mixing wound fluids from a plurality of
5 locations in a wound to provide a wound fluid mixture; and
a sensing or indicating device in fluid communication with said distributed inlet
for detecting the presence of a wound fluid marker in the wound fluid mixture.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the distributed inlet is selected from
the group consisting of a plurality of spaced apart capillary tubes, or a body of
10 absorbent material, or a combination thereof.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the distributed inlet is in the form of
a sheet or plate having an area of at least 10cm².

15 4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a device for applying
suction to the distributed inlet.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a liquid supply port to
supply a washing liquid to the wound.

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6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensing or indicating device is
visible through a side wall of the apparatus, and undergoes a visible change in the
presence of said wound fluid marker.

25 7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensing or indicating device
contains one or more immunological binding partners to bind one or more marker
molecules present in the wound fluid.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensing or indicating device comprises a chemiluminescent chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate for an enzyme present in the wound fluid.

5 9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensing or indicating device detects one or more molecules selected from the group consisting of: protease enzymes, collagen propeptides, collagen telopeptides and collagen crosslinks such as pyrridinoline, protease inhibitors, plasmin, lactate dehydrogenase, cathepsins, cytokins, peroxidase enzymes, cortisol free radicals, and growth factors.

10 10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sensing or indicating device detects one or more enzymes selected from the group consisting of matrix metalloproteinases, low molecular weight gelatinase, latent or active elastases and alkaline phosphatase (ALP).